Seizure of baby food

3110. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news report published in Hindustan Times dated the 2nd February, 1989 regarding the seizure of 3000 tins of Baby Food and if so, the details of the brand names of the tins seized ;

(b) whether similar testing programme and raids have been organised elsewhere or proposed for future specially of the particular brand seized ; and

(c) whether regular testing programme is proposed in order to protect and promote health of infants ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has seen the news report published in the Hindustan Times dated 2nd February, 1989 regarding seizure of 3000 tins of baby food in Siliguri (West Bengal). The brand name of the product seized is 'Milk care baby food'.

(b) and (c) All State/Union Territories have been urged upon to ensure that every brand of infant food marketed in their areas conform to the [illegible]s of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

District Level Planning

3111. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the States where the schemes in the district level planning introduced by the Central Government have been implemented so far; and

(b) whether reports on achievements under district level planning have been received from the States; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The idea of decentralised including district planning has gained general acceptance in the country. It is being implemented by the States in a phased manner. States like U.P., Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, etc. have made considerable progress and district plans are being prepared regularly. In other States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab etc., efforts are being made to prepare and operationalise district plans. Further efforts are also being made to improve the level of district level planning in various States. For the purpose, several steps are being taken such as strengthening of planning machinery, extending training programmes, encouragement to provision of united funds with the District level planning authorities and commissioning of consultants to assist in the preparation of District Plans on pilot basis.

National Defence and Naval [illegible]minations, 1989

3112. SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which the National Defence and Naval Academy Examinations, 1989 are likely to be held by the UPSC;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present dates of these examinations which were originally scheduled to be held on 6th May, 1989 is now

clashing with the various Entrance Examinations for admission into B.E. Degrees courses of Roorkee and other Engineering Colleges affecting hundreds of candidates appearing in the admission test; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to shift the dates of holding the N.D.A. Examinations so that it does not clash with other examinations and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Examination is being held by the Union Public Service Commission on 30th April, 1989.

(b) and (c) This date clashes with the Roorkee Engineering Entrance Examination being held on that date. About 50,000 candidates have applied for the National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Examination conducted all over the country, for which all the the administrative arrangements have already been finalised by the U.P.S.C. The Commission do not find it parcticable to change the date of the examination at this stage.

Death of soldiers at Siachen Glacier

3113. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleasee to state:

(a) the number of army men who have lost their lives in the Siachen Glacier during the last three years; and

(b) what amount Government have spent on them in the above region during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) There have been some casualties in the Siachen Glacier area during the last 3 years. It would not, however, be desirable to disclose the details of the casualties or the expenditure incurred on Siachan operations.

False AIDS Free Certificates issued by Bombay Laboratory

3114. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Bombay Laboratory had issued false Aids free certificates to Indians going abroad, as reported in the Indian Express of 5th February, 1989 and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government propose to take action against such laboratory and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Government has seen the news item. Two Indians who had been issued AIDS free certificate by a Laboratory in Bombay, proceeded to Qatar where they were retested and found to be positive both by ELISA and Western Blot. Both the Indians were sent back to India by Government of Qatar.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra are already investigating the matter for appropriate action.